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### (54) Heat exchanger

(57) A heat exchanger of the type comprising a substantially tube-shaped casing (1) with an inlet (5B) and an outlet (5A) for a first fluid, and a plurality of tubes (2) arranged longitudinally in the interior of said casing (1); each tube is connected to an entry element (7A) and an exit element (7B) for a second fluid, the first fluid flowing through the casing (1) in contact with the outer surfaces

of said tubes; the tubes (2) within the casing (1) are substantially directly in contact with each other and with the inner walls (11) of said casing and have a cross-section such as to form within the casing (1) a plurality of micro-channels (10), parallel to the tubes (2), for the flow of the first fluid.

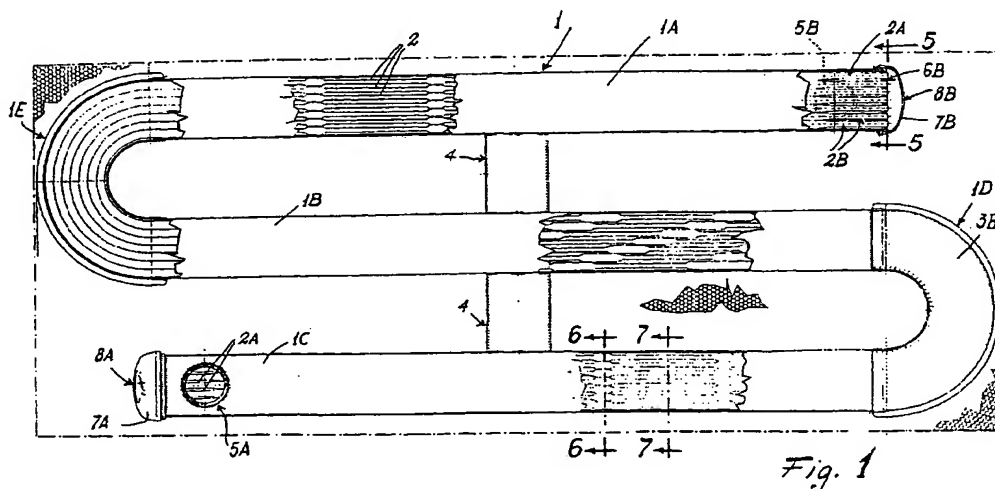


Fig. 1

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Application Number  
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>30 March 2000</b>	Examiner <b>Beltzung, F</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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Application Number  
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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